

REMARKS

Claims 13 and 15-32 remain in this application. Claims 1-12 and 14 are now canceled. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections to the drawings set forth in sections 2-3 on pages 2-3 of the Office Action are in order. Figure 3 on the replacement sheet appended to this Reply includes cross-hatching as suggested by MPEP 608.02, and a “mold” is no longer recited in the claims.

An information disclosure statement including the missing documents discussed by the Examiner in section 5 on pages 3-4 of the Office Action has been submitted.

Reconsideration of the objection set forth in section 6 on page 4 of the Office Action is requested, as a mold is no longer recited in the claims. U.S. Patent and Trademark laws and regulations do not require illustration of each and every unclaimed item mentioned in the specification.

The claim amendments above are made following consideration of the comments set forth by the Examiner in section 8 on pages 4-5 of the Office Action. It is apparent from claim 13 that the lining specified is in fact formed by the enveloping body. The term “flexible” is used in thousands of issued U.S. patents, while the term “can be fastened” is used in hundreds of issued U.S. patents. The presence of these terms in claims of the present application does not render those claims indefinite. It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now in this application comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The comments provided by the Examiner in section 12 on page 8 of the Office Action are acknowledged with appreciation. Claims 20 and 30 are rewritten above in the manner referred to and should now be allowable. For reasons discussed below, moreover, the rest of the claims remaining in this application are in also considered allowable.

Independent claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), along with various dependent claims, as anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,724,718 to Foggini. Reconsideration is requested.

Claim 13 above incorporates limitations previously appearing in claim 14, as well as certain additional limitations. In the Foggini ('718) construction, there is no disclosure of a knob body as claim 13 now particularly requires. More particularly, the Foggini ('718) patent does not disclose a knob or grip end as now specified in claim 13 including a knob body with a receiving device for a control lever, and a lining, made of a flexible material, by which the knob body can be fastened on the control lever, and in which the knob body has a shaft part and a head part, the lining is formed by an elastically constructed enveloping body at least partially surrounding the shaft part, and openings are provided in a lateral surface of the shaft part and are penetrated by sections of the enveloping body as claim 13 particularly defines. It is further respectfully submitted that the Examiner may have not fully appreciated the construction of the Foggini ('718) apparatus; elements 14b, for example, are not openings as the Examiner concludes. Instead, these elements 14b are seats receivable in notches T located

at certain positions on the rod A, as described in column 2, lines 51-57 of the Foggini ('718) patent.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 13 based on the Foggini ('718) patent are requested for reasons discussed above.

Independent claim 13 is also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), along with various dependent claims, as anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,807,490 to Foggini. Reconsideration of this rejection is also requested. It is respectfully submitted that the Foggini ('490) patent also fails to disclose a knob or grip end as now specified in claim 13 including a knob body with a receiving device for a control lever, and a lining, made of a flexible material, by which the knob body can be fastened on the control lever, and in which the knob body has a shaft part and a head part, the lining is formed by an elastically constructed enveloping body at least partially surrounding the shaft part, and openings are provided in a lateral surface of the shaft part and are penetrated by sections of the enveloping body as claim 13 particularly defines. The sectional view provided by Figure 4 of the Foggini ('490) patent concerns only the head section of the knob. The sectional view of the Foggini ('490) shaft section, on the other hand, is shown in Figure 6, which clearly shows that there are no openings in the lateral part of a knob body shaft part base plate as claim 13 requires. The recessed radial lobes 152 illustrated in Figure 4 of the Foggini ('490) patent cannot be seen in Figure 6; as shown in Figure 6, the "shell" formed by the central sleeve portion 11 has ribs 120 in this section. The Foggini ('490) construction thus includes no openings as

claim 13 now requires, and the Examiner's position regarding openings in a knob body shaft part are inappropriate.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 13 based on the Foggini ('490) patent are also requested for reasons discussed above.

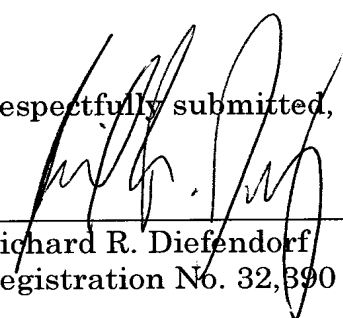
Claim 13 above is not anticipated by either the Foggini ('718) patent or the Foggini ('490) patent for reasons discussed. Nothing noted by the Examiner suggests modifying either of the Foggini constructions so as to meet the limitations now appearing in claim 13, moreover, and claim 13 above is considered patentable over the Foggini ('718) and ('490) patents. Claims 15-19, 21-29, and 31-32 are dependent claims and are considered patentable as well.

All claims remaining in this application should now be allowable for reasons discussed above. If there are any questions regarding this Reply or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an extension of time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #028987.55877US).

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